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in the State are engaged in the production of compost. Smaller panchayats have also been brought in under a new scheme. The target of production of compost during 1958–59 is 357,500 tons by the municipalities and major panchayats under the Urban Compost Scheme and 848,000 tons by the bigger panchayats and villages under the new scheme. The Government have allowed the sale of compost at Rs. 2 per ton where the cost of production exceeds that rate and they subsidize the difference. Besides, a drive for increased application of green manure has also been undertaken and a subsidy of 20 per cent is allowed in the sale of green manure seeds. During 1958–59, a target of 1,142 tons of green manure seeds for distribution has been fixed.

The Agriculture Department advises the ryots in regard to manuring of their crops and, in particular, carries on propaganda for the use of the new chemical fertilisers like Urea and Ammonium Sulphate Nitrate.

The Government have thus taken adequate steps to see that the ryots are able to get chemical fertilisers or compost for manuring their lands and they do not anticipate any great difficulty in meeting the ryots' needs during the current manuring season.

APPENDIX II.

[VIDE ANSWER TO STARRED QUESTION No. 100-EE ASKED BY SRI A. A. RASHEED AT THE MEETING OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY HELD ON 8TH SEPTEMBER 1958, PAGE 318 SUPRA.]

STATEMENT SHOWING THE ACTION TAKEN BY GOVERNMENT TO ENCOURAGE CATTLE AND SHEEP FARMING IN THE STATE.

The total Bovine population and sheep population in this State are 11·7 and 7·0 millions respectively. These are mostly nondescript ones and their capacity for production of milk, etc., is also low. It is therefore, imperative that these cattle and sheep should be bred with superior bulls of distinct breeds and rams to obtain better results. With this object in view, livestock farms are being maintained in this State for production and distribution of breeding bulls to grade up the local stock. As a matter of policy, Scindhi and Gir bulls and Murrah Buffalo bulls are being used to grade up the stock for better milk production and Kangayam, Umblachery and Hallikar bulls are used for increasing the working capacity of the animals. Similarly Nilgiri, Bikaner and Coimbatore variety of rams are used for more wool and Mandya, Ramnad and Mecheri or Mylambadi variety for more mutton.

There are four livestock farms at present at Hosur, Pudukottai, Orathanad and Pallathur but the last one is just at the initial stage. To produce suitable bulls in order to keep up the purity of the breeds,

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Scindhi, Gir, Kangayam, Hallikar, Nmblachery and Murrah buffaloe breeds are maintained at the above farms. In addition to this distribution of bulls from Government Livestock Farms, there are other measures taken for improvement of livestock in this State as detailed below :—

With a view to encourage private individuals who maintain approved breeding bulls, a premium of Rs. 200 for breeding bulls and Rs. 220 for buffalo bulls is paid every year provided they maintain the bulls under certain conditions fixed by the department. There are about 869 such bulls in the Premium Scheme at present. Breeding bulls 164 in number suitable to localities are located in several of the Veterinary institutions in the State to cater to the needs of the local areas. Breeding bulls from Government Farms or purchased in the breeding tracts were also distributed free of cost to livestock owners who are interested in livestock improvement since 1941. The custodians will be vested with the ownership of the bull at the end of the third year provided the bull is maintained properly and it has performed not less than 180 services during that period of three years. Rams were also distributed under this scheme which was called the Male Stock Distribution Scheme. This scheme has since been discontinued from 1957–58 in view of the distribution of bulls under the supplementary extension centres, comparatively a new scheme recently introduced.

Similar to the Male Stock Distribution Scheme, there is another scheme in vogue called the District Board Contribution Scheme by which bulls will be purchased by the District Boards with financial assistance from Government and distributed to selected custodians in the districts. The ownership of the bulls will be vested with the custodians as in the case of Male Stock Distribution Scheme.

A few bulls are also maintained in the Agricultural Research Stations for breeding purposes. To accelerate livestock improvement in a quicker time and to utilise the available pedigree bulls to the best advantage, the technique of artificial insemination was introduced in this State as early as 1948 and there are at present 12 artificial insemination centres located in the urban areas in the State. Pedigreed bulls are maintained at these centres and the semen collected from them is used for impregnating the local cows. This technique is becoming popular and is gaining momentum. There are also about 13 artificial insemination centres located in the National Extension Service and Community Development areas in this State.

To effect livestock improvement in a compact area, the key village scheme formulated by the Government of India was introduced in this State during the year 1951–52. According to this scheme a compact area with a population of 5,000 cows and buffaloes of breedable age, is selected wherein all the scrub bulls are castrated and a key village artificial insemination centre is located and a few bulls are distributed so that the cows and buffaloes can be covered either by artificial insemination or natural services done by the

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superior bulls. In addition to breeding, other aspects of livestock improvement such as fodder production, marketing, disease control, etc., are also attended to. On the whole there are 24 Key Village Blocks mostly situated in the breeding tract of Kangayam. A subsidy of Rs. 30 pre bull per month is also paid to the custodians to whom the bulls for natural service are distributed in the key village area. A subsidy of Rs. 10 per month per calf from the sixth month of its birth up to the age of 2½ years is also paid to calves born to bulls and through artificial insemination in the key village areas for encouraging rearing of suitable calves properly.

As this scheme has been in vogue since 1951–52 and as bulls produced under this scheme will be available in large numbers, supplementary extension centres have been established in the non-breeding tracts to utilise the bulls produced in these areas. Here also a compact area is selected for distribution of bulls and the scrub bulls are castrated by enforcement of Madras Livestock Improvement Act. A subsidy of Rs. 30 is being paid to the custodians as in the case of Key Village Scheme. There are about 643 bulls of different breeds under this scheme in the 13 supplementary extension centres established in this State.

With a view to improve the milk yield of the nondescript cattle found in the hilly and heavy rainfall areas, a scheme called Cross Breeding Scheme is being worked in the Nilgiri district with headquarters at Ootacamund. Jersey semen is obtained on three days in a week from the Southern Regional Central Artificial Insemination Centre, Bangalore, which is worked by the Government of India, by air up to Coimbatore and by road thereafter. This semen is used for insemination of the local cows. The calves born would be capable of producing more milk than their dam. The scheme is progressing well since its inception during 1955.

Sheep farming.—Sheep development work is being done mainly through the seven Sheep Demonstration Units at Coimbatore, Tiruchirappalli, Salem, Madurai, Virudhunagar, Cuddalore and Kancheepuram and through the sheep farms at Ootacamund and Chinnasalem. A new sheep farm has also been started recently in Kattupakkam in Chingleput district.

These units demonstrate the advantages of deworming and deticking of sheep and teach the professional shepherds in the State the improved methods of shearing, grading and sorting of wool and scientific methods of sheep management.

The Sheep Farm at Ootacamund has got only Nilgiri breed of sheep which bear the finest wool in the country. This farm is located in about 600 acres in the Wenlock Downs near Dunsandle. Selective breeding of Nilgiri is being done for production of improved rams. In view of the fineness of the wool of this breed, this station has been selected as one of the sub-centres for conducting cross-breeding experiments with foreign breed rams of Romney Marsh breed under the All-India Sheep and Wool Improvement Scheme.

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The cross-breeding experiments are in progress. Rams from this farm have been distributed in the Nilgiri district and the adjoining district of Coimbatore for grading up the local types.

The sheep farm at Chinnasalem has just started stocking local woolly variety of sheep and a flock of Bikaner sheep is also to be put there shortly. Similarly the one sanctioned at the Kattupakkam area will have the object of improving mutton type of sheep.

A flock of Mandya sheep is maintained at Livestock Research Station, Hosur, for production of Mandya rams and there is another flock of Bikaner sheep also.

A scheme is working in Hosur taluk of Salem district by which Mandya rams produced at Livestock Research Station, Hosur, or purchased in the tract, are distributed in a compact area in exchange for local rams which will be sold in auction after castration. Fifty rams are purchased and distributed every alternate year. Intensive supervision of sheep flocks is being done by the staff and castration of scrub rams is being attended to besides deworming, deticking, etc.

Under the Second Five-Year Plan, a scheme for opening eight sheep and wool extension centres have been started during 1957–58 in Tiruchirappalli, Coimbatore, South Arcot and Salem districts. Two thousand and five hundred ewes of breedable age have been taken up in the above places and 50 Bikaner rams are proposed to be distributed on loan in each of the above centres to selected flock owners during the mating season.

Under the Second Five-Year Plan, one wool utilization centre is proposed to be established at Sulur in Coimbatore district for demonstration of making fabrics of the latest designs with wool with improved implements.

In order to improve the sheep in key village areas along with cattle improvement a scheme for sheep improvement in key village areas was introduced at Kangayam and Vellakoil. Mecheri rams will be distributed in each centre on exchange basis.

Cattle shows and sheep shows.—To make the rural public breed better type of cattle and to create a healthy competition among the livestock owners to rear cattle on scientific lines, cattle and sheep shows are held in different districts in important places. During the year 1957–58, six district cattle shows and 18 sheep shows in the districts and one State cattle show were held at Madras. The shows have inculcated enthusiasm among the livestock owners to a very great extent in the districts.